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UNCLAS ABUJA 000873

SIPDIS

FOR AF/W AND INL/AAE - E.FLOOD

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TAGS: [KCRM](#) [SNAR](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PREL](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT PRESENTATION

1. During an April 8 turnover ceremony, Ambassador Jeter presented the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Tafa Balogun, with riot control and other equipment valued at more than \$300,000. The donation, part of the ICITAP Civil Disorder Police Reform Training Program, included helmets, shields, batons, handcuffs and other items. Jeter commended the participants and others involved in making the training possible and challenged the NPF to make Nigeria proud by utilizing the training they received in a professional, responsible and non-partisan manner during the elections.

2. (SBU) The IGP thanked the Ambassador and the American Government for the contribution and for being an active training partner of the NPF. He applauded the excellent relationship between the U.S. and Nigeria and remarked that the best way for the NPF to reciprocate was to demonstrate their professionalism. The IGP remarked that he was a believer in the "train the trainer" concept as he himself had been a recipient and later a trainer for six years of his career.

3. (SBU) The IGP's comments indicate that Balogun may have become a committed convert to the benefits of bilateral cooperation on law enforcement. When he ascended to his current position last year, Balogun was not an enthusiastic supporter of our police training efforts. However, Balogun now appears to have made a welcomed about face. In his remarks Balogun reiterated his eight-point strategy for law enforcement that included training as a major element and assured the Ambassador of his continued cooperation. The IGP also expressed his gratitude to the LAPD for the donation of the protective vests made possible through the efforts of Los Angeles Police Capt Patrick Findley adding this was "just the beginning" of the level of cooperation expected between the U.S. and Nigeria.

JETER